IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 15 of page 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The collection meter 18 includes Audio interface circuits 32, a communications module 26, a digital signal processor (DSP) controller 27, a flash memory 28 to store parameters and programming information for the DSP controller 27, a CODEC 29 to provide for compression and decompression of data (e.g., audio or video information) in accordance with predetermined mathematical algorithms, a real time clock 30, and a power supply and voltage supervisor 31. The DSP controller 27 may be programmed to provide functionalities such as, tuning to cable channel frequencies, detection of the state of the television (e.g., powered ON or OFF), detection of the channel being viewed, communication to the communications module 26, management of storage of snapshot information (e.g., time stamp), reception and storage of information related to a telephone number of a central collection site and time for sending snapshot information to the central site, dial-up capability to contact the central site and to upload the snapshot information, and a capability to receive time and reset the onboard teal time clock during the upload. Additional features and functionalities may be provided as user requirements change by reprogramming the DSP controller 27. As illustrated, the DSP controller 27 receives information over line 20 from the display interface board 22 (from connection J2).--

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19 and 20, as follows:

2. (Amended) The display interface as recited in claim 1, wherein said electronic display comprises at least one display element, and wherein said display element is adapted to display an alphanumeric character representation of said currently tuned-to channel of said set-top converter box.

a2

3. (Amended) The display as recited in claim 2, wherein said drive signals are provided to plural display elements in said electronic display using a multiplexing scheme in order to display each alphanumeric character of said currently tuned-to channel, and wherein said drive signals are input to said controller and sampled to determine said currently tuned-to

channel.

4. (Amended) The display interface as recited in claim 3, wherein said drive signals comprise scan signals provided over scan lines that selectively enable one display element in said electronic display and segment signals provided over segment lines that drive each segment of said display element, wherein said scan lines and said segments lines are input to predetermined pins of an input/output port of said controller in order to determine said currently tuned-to channel.

5. (Amended) The display interface as recited in claim 4, wherein said information representative of said tuned channel comprises an ASCII value representative of said currently tuned-to channel, and wherein said controller outputs said ASCII value to a collection meter connected to said display interface via a second electrical connection.

6. (Amended) The display interface as recited in claim 5, wherein said collection meter comprises an audio matching circuit, said audio matching circuit comparing a first audio signal of a predetermined channel tuned by said collection meter with a second audio signal output by a television to which said set-top converter is connected, wherein if said first audio signal and said second audio signal match, said collection meter determines that said channel which said set-top converter box is displaying is said predetermined channel.

8. (Amended) The display interface as recited in claim 7, wherein said second device comprises a collection meter, and wherein said collection meter stores said information representative of said currently tuned-to channel and forwards it to a predetermined location at selected times.

9. (Amended) The display interface as recited in claim 8, wherein said information representative of said tuned channel comprises an ASCII value representative of said currently tuned-to channel, and wherein said controller outputs said ASCII value to said collection meter via said second electrical connection.

11. (Amended) A system for determining viewership of channels tunable by a set-top converter box having an electronic display, said system comprising:

a display interface device connected to said electronic display; and

a collection meter connected to said display interface, said collection meter periodically storing a channel to which said set-top converter is tuned,

wherein said channel to which said set-top converter is tuned is determined by said display interface by receiving and interpreting drive signals transmitted to said electronic display of said set-top converter and communicated to said collection meter, and wherein said collection meter stores said channel and forwards it to a predetermined location at selected times.

a4

12. (Amended) The system for determining viewership of channels tunable by a set-top converter box as recited in claim 11, wherein said collection meter further comprises an audio matching circuit, said audio matching circuit comparing a first audio signal of a predetermined channel tuned by said collection meter with a second audio signal output by a television to which said set-top converter is connected, wherein if said first audio signal and said second audio signal match, said collection meter determines that said channel which said set-top converter box is displaying is said predetermined channel.

13. (Amended) The display interface as recited in claim 11, wherein said electronic display comprises at least one display element, and wherein said display element is adapted to display an alphanumeric character representation of said currently tuned-to channel of said set-top converter box.

14. (Amended) The display interface as recited in claim 13, said display interface comprising a controller, wherein said drive signals are provided to plural display elements in said electronic display using a multiplexing scheme in order to display each alphanumeric character of said currently tuned-to channel, and wherein said drive signals are input to said controller and sampled to determine said currently tuned-to channel.

15. (Amended) The display interface as recited in claim 14, wherein said drive signals

a4 cont'd.

comprise scan signals provided over scan lines that selectively enable one display element in said electronic display and segment signals provided over segment lines that drive each segment of said display element, wherein said scan lines and said segments lines are input to predetermined pins of an input/output port of said controller in order to determine said currently tuned-to channel.

a5

17. (Amended) The method as recited in claim 16, wherein said electronic display comprises at least one display element, and said drive signals comprise scan signals provided over scan lines that enable each display element and segment signals provided over segment lines that drive each segment of said display element, said step of determining a channel to which said set-top converter box is tuned further comprising:

(a) determining if a scan line for said display element is active;

(b) if said scan line is active at step (a), then determining which of said segment lines are active to determine character being displayed by said display element; and

(c) repeating steps (a) and (b) for each display element in said electronic display.

a6

19. (Amended) The method as recited in claim 18, wherein said step of outputting said coded representation comprises serially transmitting said ASCII value to a collection meter.

20. (Amended) The method as recited in claim 19, further comprising:

storing, at said collection meter, said ASCII value; and

forwarding said ASCII value at predetermined times to a central collection site.

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